

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 10, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Through Your gifts to us, O gracious God, You have provided abundant blessings; of love and forgiveness, of hospitality and generosity, of justice and charity, of friendship and loyalty and of faith and trust. On this day we are aware of the most wonderful gifts of thanksgiving and praise that touch our hearts and truly make such a difference in our lives. We pray that we will live our lives in the spirit of thankfulness to You, our God, for the wonders and blessings You have given and also live with that same thanksgiving as we express our gratitude for those near and dear to us. In the spirit of thankfulness and gratitude we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TANCREDO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CLINTON RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my outrage at the President's continual raid on Social Security. While this Nation's elderly are worried that Social Security will not be there when they need it, the White House budget plan for 2000 robs \$52 billion from Social Security surpluses.

Mr. Speaker, this is a trust fund, not a slush fund. The President thinks he can dip into Social Security to finance any big government spending project he can dream up. Not only will the President take \$52 billion for general spending from Social Security next year, he will continue to pilfer more than \$247 billion from the Social Security surplus for the next 5 years. With this kind of scheme, it is no wonder Social Security is in trouble.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan wants to lock up 100 percent of the surpluses in Social Security to save Social Security. The Republican plan wants to restore a sense of security to Social Security. In short, the Republican plan will maintain responsibility and discipline in government.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR DOAN VIET HOAT

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding individual: Professor Doan Viet Hoat of Vietnam.

A journalist and a university professor, he has spent the last 19 of 21 years in a Hanoi prison for his efforts to bring freedom of the press and democracy to Vietnam. And despite all efforts by the Vietnamese government to prevent his writings from surfacing, his message continued to reach beyond his prison cell.

Professor Hoat instantly became a prisoner of conscience championed by Amnesty International and is a recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award and the Golden Pen of Freedom Award. This summer Professor Hoat was finally released after decades of government harassment and repression.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor Professor Hoat for his moral courage in

the face of absolute tyranny, and I urge all of my colleagues to honor him. I have just brought a resolution to this House, and I hope my colleagues will all help to cosponsor the legislation.

DALAI LAMA TO VISIT SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago this week the people of Tibet, in what is known as the Lhasa Uprising, revolted against the illegal and tyrannical occupation of their nation by the Communist Chinese. Unfortunately, their attempt to free their homeland was defeated by the brutal force of the Chinese occupying force, forcing the spiritual leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, to flee into exile.

Today, their struggle for freedom continues and is embodied by the tireless efforts of the Dalai Lama, who travels the world seeking support for the autonomy of his nation.

The south Florida community is proud to receive the Dalai Lama on April 16 at Florida International University in Miami in his never-ending journey to preach the language of freedom.

In south Florida, the Dalai Lama will find unconditional support for his enslaved nation because a large portion of my community knows all too well the pain of having to flee one's homeland to escape Communist oppression. Their struggle and the message of the Dalai Lama reminds us all that although the Cold War is over, millions still suffer under the tyranny of communism.

Whether Tibet or Cuba, the world, and in particular the U.S., cannot forget the suffering of these enslaved people.

RESOLUTION TO HONOR PROFESSOR DOAN VIET HOAT

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to join the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) in introducing this resolution in honor of Professor Doan Viet Hoat. It is a rare individual who is willing to sacrifice their own personal freedom for the sake of their fellowman, and when